

CITY/REGION

Parade/Attendance peaked at the height of fight over Colorado's Amendment 2

From B1
"anger motivates more than relief."

"It took the threat of Amendment 2 to really bring people out," he said.

In fact, Pridefest was a meager gathering of about 700 to 800 until Amendment 2 passed. In 1993, the celebration grew to 3,000, drawing gays, lesbians and other gay-rights supporters from throughout the West. Attendance peaked in 1994 at about 5,000.

"I think people are taking a tiny break from the adversity," said local actress and activist Mary Sprunger-Froese. "Everybody's laid back, gathering strength for the next whatever."

Although many called the event a social gathering, the political messages were everywhere: on banners, T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers and red ribbons.

Here's a short sample of the colorful catch phrases: "We are

without borders."

Darlene Owen, 49, drew a lot of attention with her sign: "My lesbian daughter is my gift to the world."

A snapshot of her daughter, who lives in Missouri, was pinned to her T-shirt.

"My daughter is a lesbian, and I love her," said Owen, who was thanked by many of the marchers who said their parents don't show the same support. "People have to remember that your kids are your kids."

The colorful parade, full of rainbows symbolizing diversity of sexual orientation, included some men in drag and others in leather. But most participants wore shorts and T-shirts.

The Pridefest's intent, organizers said, wasn't to be outrageous but to make the gay community as visible as possible. Many gays have used the parade to "come out" — to show the community that they're openly gay and proud of it.

Jay Janner/Gazette Telegraph



Kassondra DeMornay, left, and Carolyn Corcoran participate in Sunday's gay pride parade in Colorado Springs. Billed a social gathering, political messages were evident.

of "out."

One woman, whose parents and friends know she's a lesbian, came to the parade to "show support for

name. She said if her associates at work knew she was gay, she might lose her job.

Amendment 2 may be dead, she said, but the fear of discrimination against gays is alive and well.

rove focus

CITY
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NEWS

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1996

GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

COMMENTARY

Festival blooms into miraculous celebration

The Portuguese festival was founded upon the belief in a miracle. So it shouldn't be surprising that there are some rather miraculous aspects of the effort to carry on the tradition in Colorado Springs.

After all, who would believe that a classified ad — and some dogged perseverance — could create a community where there really wasn't one before?

But that's what happened with the local celebration of the festival of the "Divino Espirito Santo" —

Portuguese for
the Holy Spirit
— which will
be held Sunday

Cops pick up ticks

Lower accident rate accompanies crackdown

By **Marcus Montoya**
Gazette Telegraph

Colorado Springs police have put 11 additional traffic officers on the street. The result: Nearly 50 percent more tickets have been issued this year than during the same period last year.

Police wrote 35,789 moving-violation tickets from January through May, up from 24,304 during the same

period last year. That's a 47 percent increase.

The traffic division has grown from 37 to 48 officers. In addition, it received a portion of a \$1 million appropriation from the City Council to pay police overtime.

"We're not picking on anybody," said Lt. Steve Liebowitz, head of the traffic division. "We're just looking for

a little voluntarism in traffic laws."

And a reduction in accidents.

In the first five months of this year, accidents are down 10 percent, Liebowitz credits the crackdown along with part of the department's enforcement efforts.

Enforcement efforts that cause traffic jams, running red lights, and in front of other vehicles.

"Going out and checking license plates and other things," Liebowitz said.

Probably

1,500-plus show pride for gays with parade

6/17/96 GA2

Photos by Jay Janner/Gazette Telegraph



Diane Kelly, left, and Becky Lewton march during Pridefest on Sunday in Colorado Springs, the birthplace of Amendment 2, which was struck down last month by the U.S.

Supreme Court. The amendment, approved by voters in 1992, would have banned laws that protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

**"We're here!
We're queer!
We're
constitutional!"**

marchers' chant
at Pridefest



Some of the more than 1,500 people who attended Sunday's gay pride parade carry a

large rainbow banner symbolizing the diversity of sexual orientation.

Springs event celebrates ruling by high court

By Warren Epstein
Gazette Telegraph

The gay-pride parade was already halfway through its route Sunday afternoon when a gay man in the middle of the procession noticed the group was being a way too quiet.

"Shouldn't we chant something?" he asked the lesbian woman marching beside him.

"Sure, what do you want to chant?"

"Oh, how about this: We're here! We're queer! We're constitutional!"

It didn't rhyme, but the chant caught on anyway, as about 1,500 gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their supporters celebrated the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down Amendment 2.

The constitutional amendment, spearheaded by the Springs-based Colorado for Family Values and passed by Colorado voters in 1992, would have banned laws that protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

The high court ruled May 20 that the amendment was unconstitutional because it singled out homosexuals for unequal protection under the law.

The decision turned the sixth annual Pridefest into a celebration.

"Happy gays are here again!" Franklin Whitworth shouted to the crowd at a rally in Acacia Park that followed the parade. Whitworth is executive director of the local gay-rights group Ground Zero and recent recipient of the Stonewall Award for his activism in Colorado gay-rights causes.

"It was a great decision, and we should celebrate it," he said. "We've come a long way, baby, and we're gonna keep going."

But the gay celebration was smaller and mellower than the past two Pridefests.

Pridefester David McCreedy, 31, a computer analyst from Denver, said he thinks that's because

See PARADE/B2



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See PARADE/B2

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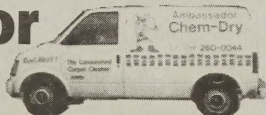


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Please vote for the name you like the best.

Name The Baby Ballot

- ☐ **Maraja**—a place in Borneo
- ☐ **Kutai** (pronounced Coo-tye)—a reserve in Borneo
- ☐ **Hadiah** (pronounced Ha-de-yah)



*Come to the
Baby Shower*

popular... all family." "Don't ask. Don't tell. Don't believe it." "Love

gay and proud of it.

But there are different levels

and what we are."

Still, she wouldn't give h

Uniforms/Dress said to imp

From B1

project helped needy families purchase the uniforms which, if purchased new, average \$65-75 per year for each student.

Parents could have their children opt out by filing a written request and going through a conference with a principal or a teacher.

About 98 percent of parents chose to send their children to school in uniform.

Two lawsuits were filed along the way, accusing the district of stifling freedom of expression and essentially forcing a dress tax. The former was dismissed; the latter was settled when the district agreed to provide uniforms for students who couldn't afford them.

Now that the rancor has settled, the Long Beach district has

begun to document what two years of uniforms have accomplished.

The results: Student suspensions decreased 32 percent in one year. Fights on school campuses — one of the district's biggest safety issues — fell by more than 50 percent. Weapons offenses fell by the same amount. Sexual assaults — yes, even in middle school — dropped by 74 percent.

The results of district achievement tests have been less dramatic — but there is still evidence: Double-digit increases in math, language and reading test scores across the board.

Some teachers have said that just by putting on the uniform, students became more focused and stuck to tasks — two ingredients of success.

"When we started talking about this, more parents got involved in the schools. Many of them have stuck around, and they are some of the best classroom volunteers we have," says

Linda Moore, a Long Beach principal.

Because the community involved, too, there are now many more partnerships.

But was it the uniforms?

Polacheck said the school board isn't naive enough to think that matching clothing is the key to successful schools. But the students gave it a chance, she said.

"Deep down, every child wants to succeed."

Administrators in Rand, Mass., had hoped a uniform, adopted last year, would produce the same results.

Some were enthusiastic about it, including students and parents. But the district didn't make the policy mandatory. Students could wear the parochial-style uniforms or their own clothes as long as followed the guidelines of good taste.

Last summer, more than 100 of the elementary school's 400 students were fitted for uni-



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